We claim:

1.   An apparatus for commissioning and/or diagnosing a control system, comprising a display device for displaying the control system's functionanlity via an object model, and an engineering system for commissioning, project engineering, configuration of controls and drives and/or for compiling a control program on the basis of the functionality of the control system displayed via the object model.

2.   The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein data for the control system is administered on the basis of the object model.

3.   The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein access to diagnostic information and commissioning tools to be implemented by the engineering system on the basis of instances of control objects is staged.

4.   The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the instances of control objects, are visualized in the engineering system via a project browser.

5.   The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein during navigation in the project browser, context-sensitive information and relevant tools to be executed are visualized.

6.   The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein data on-line or off-line is held by the control system.

7.   The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the off-line and on-line data is visualized in a staged manner in the project browser.

8.   A method for commissioning and/or diagnosing a control system, comprising the steps of displaying the control system's functionality in an object model, and commissioning, project engineering, configuring controls and drives and/or compiling a control program is performed on the basis of the functionality of the control system displayed via the object model.

9.   The method according to claim 8, wherein data for the control system is administered on the basis of the object model.

10.   The method according to claim 8, wherein access to diagnostic information and commissioning tools implemented on the basis of instances of control objects is staged.

11.   The method according to claim 10, where instances of control objects and/or their mutual relationships are visualized via a project browser.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein during navigation in the project browser, context-sensitive information is visualized and relevant tools are presented.

13. The method according to claim 8, wherein data is held on-line or offline.

14. The method according to claim 13, wherein data consistency between off-line and on-line data is visualised in the project browser.

15. A computer program for implementing the apparatus according to claim 1.

16. A data carrier for storing a computer program according to claim 15.

17. A data processing device comprising a computer program according to claim 15.

18. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the on-line data is held in a run-time system and off-line data is held in the engineering system.

19. The method according to claim 13, wherein the on-line data is held in a run-time system and the off-line data is held in the engineering system.